

## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Seoul Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

December 1988

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

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OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

C/Ops

2.

3.

C/E&amp;PS

4.

DD/FBIS

5.

D/FBIS

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PO/RA

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SA/CD

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10. De/AS

C/AS

11. Pers

C/B&amp;F/AS

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13.

14.

C/AG

15.

Exec. Reg.



EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE  
SEOUL BUREAU



9 January 1989  
FBIS-5600-89

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service  
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group  
SUBJECT: Monthly Report -- Seoul Bureau -- December 1988

I. GENERAL

On the 28th, the bureau chief along with several others from the Embassy attended a military honors ceremony for departing Ambassador James Lilley at the headquarters of the 2d Infantry Division in Tongduchon, just south of the Demilitarized Zone. The ceremony was attended by many of the high-ranking U.S. military officers in South Korea. The commanding general of U.S. troops in Korea and of the Combined Forces Command, General Louis Menetrey, addressed those present. Ambassador Lilley also spoke. The ambassador is leaving on 3 January to take a position with President-elect George Bush's transition team.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. December concluded with a flurry of activity in North-South relations. After a two-week delay due to changes in personnel in the South Korean delegation, the North-South preliminary parliamentary talks resumed on 29 December. Predictions by delegates from the South that a full-scale meeting would be held in the spring were confounded when the North introduced the annual "Team Spirit" exercise as an agenda item. Further talks are planned for 10 February, but bringing up the joint ROK-U.S. military exercise, no matter the outcome, promises to provide grist for the mill of anti-U.S. sentiment among radical students and dissident figures in the South. The editor and the monitors on duty kept the Bureau open past the normal COB to ensure that the material on the talks left the Bureau in good time. The North also proposed talks for a joint North-South team for the Beijing Asiad, which was accepted by the South, and the South responded to an earlier call for North-South political and military talks with a proposal to upgrade the level of the talks to that of premier.

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2. Both North Korea and South Korea saw important personnel changes during the month. South Korean President No Tae-u announced a sweeping reshuffle of his cabinet on 5 December, followed by changes in the lineup of the ruling Democratic Justice Party on 8 December. North Korea convened a WPK plenum on 11 December, followed by a Supreme People's Assembly Session on 12 December to replace its premier. Embassy consumers, including the ambassador, expressed gratitude for the Bureau's prompt handling of the announcements.

3. The ROK National Assembly hearings into the problems associated with the regime of Chon Tu-hwan adjourned for the holidays on 21 December. Opposition assemblymen promise to resume the hearings, with calls for former presidents Chon Tu-hwan and Choe Kyu-ha to testify, in January. VSLs consisting of 36 tapes, more than 200 hours of material, have been prepared and sent to headquarters since the hearings began in early November.

4. Another new publication, KUNGMIN ILBO in Korean, put out daily by Seoul's Full Gospel Church, appeared during the month. Review of the first issue and a subsequent issue showed that it was not worth adding to regular coverage at this time. The Korean Unit will keep track of the publication to see if it becomes more worthwhile at some time in the future. A sample copy was sent to AD.

#### B. Technical

1. On 6 December, the bureau chief and the deputy chief visited the remote antenna site at Pyongtaek to meet the new configuration management officer [ ] and members of the antenna installation team. In the course of a discussion on what could be done to ensure that Bureau equipment would be fully hooked up to the pusher antenna without further delay, [ ] said a new engineering change proposal (ECP) along with a detailed installation plan were needed for the receiver upgrade. On 9 December the bureau chief and Chief Technician [ ] along with junior editor [ ] in her capacity as Bureau property officer, again met with [ ] explained what he needed for the ECP, offering the assistance of his office as well as improvements in the Bureau's equipment area. Further meetings will be held when the antenna installation team returns after the holidays.

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2. During the month the Bureau received 1 Okidata Comscribe V printer, s/n 349072, from Headquarters.

#### C. Lateral Services

AG passed on two consumer requests for material from the South Korean vernacular press. During the month the Bureau produced over 50,000 words from the vernacular press, triple the previous month's total and the highest monthly figure since May of this year.

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III. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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A. At a general Bureau meeting on 13 December, 10-year government service pins were handed out to Chinese monitor [redacted] Korean monitor [redacted] and communicator [redacted]

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B. TDY editor [redacted] earned her yellow belt in Taekwondo on 29 December and junior editor [redacted] earned her red belt the next day.

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C. A Bureau Christmas party was held on 16 December.

[redacted]  
Chief, Seoul Bureau

cc: Chief, Okinawa Bureau  
Chief, Hong Kong Bureau

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